

## PANELIST & MODERATOR BIOGRAPHIES

### Artists

**Jeanne Liotta** is an artist and filmmaker from NYC. She makes films, videos, and other ephemera including installed projections, works on paper, and photographic works often located at the intersection of art, science, and natural philosophy. She has taught widely over the years, and is presently Assistant Professor in Film Studies at CU Boulder, as well as core faculty for the Bard MFA Program. Among her achievements are The Lincoln Center Film Society's Best Films of the Decade, Film Comment's Top Filmmakers of the Decade (2011), the Helen Hill Award (2012), and a recent retrospective at Anthology Film Archives. She is represented by Microscope Gallery in Brooklyn and exhibits internationally, including the New York and Rotterdam Film Festivals, The Whitney Biennial, The Sharjah Biennial, Centres George Pompidou and Cinematheque Francais Paris, Arthouse/ Jones Center in Austin, The Exploratorium in San Francisco, Wexner Center for the Art in Columbus, Museum of Contemporary Art Denver, and the Cornell Astronomical Society among others. <http://www.jeanneliotta.net/>

**Michael Theodore** is a new media artist and composer. He was born and raised in New York City, and is currently Associate Professor of Music Composition and Technology at the University of Colorado, Boulder, and the Director of the ATLAS Center for Media, Arts and Performance. Principal teachers include Lewis Spratlan (Amherst College, BA, Summa Cum Laude), Jonathan Berger, Jacob Druckman, and Martin Bresnick (Yale School of Music, MM) Roger Reynolds and Miller Puckette (University of California, San Diego, PhD). Inspired by observations and experiences of the natural world, Theodore creates dynamic fields of color, light and sound using a variety of media, including kinetic works of light and sound, works on paper, and musical compositions and performances. His music has been performed by the Sonor Ensemble, Speculum Musicae, the Steven Shick/Maya Beiser Duo, and The New Julliard Ensemble. His work has been presented across the United States, and in Mexico, Trinidad y Tobago, Greece, Spain, Germany, Sweden, France, Australia, Japan, and China. <http://michaeltheodore.info/>

### Scientists

**Dr. Elizabeth (Betsy) Weatherhead** is an environmental scientist, Senior Scientist at the University of Colorado, Boulder, and heads the Weatherhead Research Group at CIRES (the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences). She is proud to share a number of awards including the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize for her contributions to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Her background in solar radiation and its affects on all levels of the atmosphere have resulted in a number of publications and governmental reports. Her work on detecting changes in ozone culminated in the cover story on ozone recovery for Nature in 2006. Current research interests include supporting renewable energy, particularly wind and solar, through a better understanding of long-term and short-term resources

and predictability as well as improving US weather forecasting capabilities through partnerships among the public, private and academic sectors. In her spare time, Dr. Weatherhead studies oil painting and dabbles in watercolors.

<http://cires.colorado.edu/science/groups/weatherhead/>

**Dr. Carol Wessman** is an ecosystem and landscape ecologist. She heads the Landscape and Ecosystem Ecology Lab in the Earth Science and Observation Center at CIRES, and is a Professor at the University of Colorado, Boulder's Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department. Wessman's lab group seeks to gain insights on the dynamics between landscape structure and ecosystem functioning, with focus on understanding ecosystem resilience and response to multiple disturbances. Her approach involves field studies, remote sensing methodologies investigating temporal and spatial heterogeneity in ecosystem properties, and landscape and ecosystem theory. Current research projects include: Subalpine forest response to multiple disturbances; carbon sequestration in post-disturbance landscapes; and ecosystem resilience.

<http://cires.colorado.edu/people/wessman/#sthash.0gEd2h08.dpuf>

## **MODERATORS/PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS**

**Shilpi Gupta** is based in Boulder, Colorado and is a software engineer for NOAA's Science On a Sphere® (SOS), which is a room-sized display system that uses projectors to display Earth Science and other data onto a six-foot diameter sphere. Gupta develops graphical applications for remotely controlling SOS, as well as new features for display on SOS. Her work interests include developing software for interactive and visually engaging display systems. In addition, she works with projects that explore the intersection of science with the arts to foster a deeper understanding of and connection to issues surrounding our rapidly changing Earth. Gupta is also actively engaged in the arts, and her personal work includes photography, mixed media works on paper, installation, dance, performance, and music. Gupta was raised in Lexington, Kentucky and received a BS/MS in Computer Science and a BA in Art Studio from the University of Kentucky. [www.sos.noaa.gov](http://www.sos.noaa.gov) , [www.shilpigupta.com](http://www.shilpigupta.com) .

**Marda Kirn** is the founding director of EcoArts Connections, which produces projects and events that bring together science, arts, and other fields to deepen understanding of global change and inspire the shift to sustainability. Her awards include the Colorado Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts, Western Alliance of Arts Administrators Distinguished Service Award, the first University of Colorado Creative Climate Communication Prize, and the Dairy Center Honors. She has been a speaker/panelist and/or consultant for organizations in the US, Europe, Australia, Peru, Mexico, Cuba, and India and has spoken at national conferences including those of the American Alliance of Museums; American Association for Performing Arts Presenters; American Solar Energy Society; Dance/USA; Theatre Communications Group; UCAR; Transforming Local Governments; Behavior Energy,

and Climate Change; and Ecoarts Australis. Previously, Kirn was the founding director of the Colorado Dance Festival, considered one of the top three dance festivals in the US during her tenure (1982-96).